Instructor: T. Lockhart  
Office: 326 Walker  
Office Hours: 10:00-11:30 AM Monday, 2:30-3:30 PM Wednesday, and by appointment  
Office Phone: 487-3245  
Email: TLOCKHA@MTU.EDU  
WWW: http://www.hu.mtu.edu/~tlockha

Texts: materials on library reserve

Course Content

This course will address some of the important ethical questions that arise in ordinary human communication and for professional communicators. We shall consider general principles of ethics and attempt to see how they can be applied to those ethical problems. We shall study a number of real and hypothetical cases in communication ethics that raise questions about such topics as whistle-blowing, confidentiality, risk communication, communication within organizations, advertising, public relations, and journalism.

Papers

You will write two papers for the course. You will have limited choices of topics for your papers. The general topics for your papers will correlate with the dates of your presentations. (See below.) You may submit drafts of your papers to the course instructor for feedback before you turn in your final papers for grading. The due date for each draft will be the date of your presentation. Specific directions and guidelines for writing the papers will be provided.

Presentations

Each of your two presentations, mentioned in the preceding section, will be relatively short—approximately 10-12 minutes. One purpose will be to stimulate discussion of the topic your presentation is about. The topics for your papers will be closely related to the topics of your presentations. Specific directions and guidelines for the presentations will be provided.

Homework

A schedule of reading assignments will be distributed early in the course. A schedule for the presentations will be negotiated during the first few weeks of the semester.

Class Attendance

You are expected to attend class regularly and to come to each class prepared to discuss the topic of the day. You are responsible for determining what material was covered and what announcements were made during any classes that you miss.

Final Examination

There will be an optional comprehensive final exam given during final exam week at the end of the semester. Specific information about the final exam will be provided near the end of the term.
Final Grade

Your final grade in the course will depend on (1) your grades on the two papers, (2) your grades on the two class presentations, (3) your class attendance and participation grade, and (4) your final exam grade if you choose to take the final exam. If you take the final exam and your grade on the final exam is higher than your course average going into the final exam, then your final exam grade will determine 50% of your final grade. Otherwise, (1), (2), and (3) will determine your final course grade.

Paper 1: 25%  
Presentation 1 (corresponding to Paper 1): 10%  
Paper 2 (commentary): 25%  
Presentation 2 (corresponding to Paper 2): 10%  
Class Participation: 30%

For the purpose of computing a final course average, letter grades will be converted to numbers. Course averages will be interpreted as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB</td>
<td>88-93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-88</td>
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<tr>
<td>BC</td>
<td>78-83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD</td>
<td>68-73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grades will not be curved.

Academic Dishonesty (University Policy)

According to University policy, "Academic Dishonesty is prohibited and includes the following violations:

- Plagiarism—copying another's work or ideas and calling them one's own or not giving proper credit or citation.
- Cheating—intentional use of any unauthorized study aids, equipment, or another's work during an academic exercise.
- Fabrication—intentional falsification or invention of any information or citation during an academic exercise without proper authorization.
- Facilitating academic dishonesty—allowing or helping another individual to plagiarize, cheat, or fabricate information.

Penalty: not less than academic integrity warning, not more than expulsion" (http://www.admin.mtu.edu/dos/rights/regulations.html)

This policy (stated above) will be followed in this course. At a minimum, graded work that involves plagiarism, cheating, or fabrication (as defined above) will receive a grade of zero, and no opportunity will be afforded to make up the work. Software that detects plagiarism may be employed.

Records

You should keep all graded work (papers) returned to you until after the course is over and you have received your final grade for the course. This will enable us to resolve any questions about your grades if they come up at the end of the semester.